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Making sense of the world



THE WEEK

Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS



PARIS POWER

Get set for exciting competition in the Paralympics

p12





This week's big news

CAREER CHANGE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was elected in 2019, after a successful career as a comedian and actor.



Ukrainian troops near the border with Russia on August 15

A meaningful win



Ukraine's military has received assistance from a surprising source. Olga Kharian (above), a Ukrainian fencer who won a gold medal with her team at the Paris Olympics, auctioned off the sword she used at the Games. She raised \$243,000 and donated the money to buy military equipment for Ukrainian troops.

Ukraine troops move into Russia

Ukraine staged a surprise attack on Russia and is now attempting to hold on to the territory it seized during the battle. The offensive move happened amid a war between the nations, which has been ongoing since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. It was the first significant attack on Russian soil since World War II (1939–1945).

What happened?

Ukraine planned the invasion in secret. On August 6, about 1,000 of the nation's troops in tanks and other armored vehicles crossed the northern border into Russia's Kursk region. They pushed through Russian defenses and took control of more than 80 Russian settlements, which total about 400 square miles of territory. Ukraine then increased the size of its military presence in Kursk to about 10,000 troops and destroyed a bridge that Russia had been using for restocking supplies. Russia scrambled to respond, sending more troops to Kursk and evacuating about 120,000 residents.



Why was this significant?

The invasion caused a shift in the war, giving Ukraine a strategic advantage for the first time since the fighting began. Before this, Ukraine had conducted two small, brief ground attacks within

Russia. The attack also revealed weaknesses in Russia's defenses and embarrassed Russian leadership. That has changed people's perception of the fighting, which many thought Russia was dominating. During the war, Russia has launched many rockets on Ukraine from Kursk. Controlling Kursk allows Ukraine to prevent Russia from doing this again. The attack also caused Russia to pull some soldiers from Ukraine and move them to Kursk. While Russia's military is significantly bigger than Ukraine's, this could still strain Russia's troops.

How did Ukraine plan this attack?

Ukraine quietly moved troops to an area across the border from Kursk earlier this summer, making it look as if they were undergoing training and picking up new equipment. Some Russian troops noticed and reported the activity, but their superiors ignored the information. Ukraine had the advantage of advanced military weapons provided by the US and European allies. The attack was not only a surprise to Russia, though. Ukraine also didn't give advance notice to its allies, including the US.

How did people react?

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the move was meant to put "pressure on the

aggressor" and thanked his troops for the successful attack. "Russia brought war to others, and now it is coming home," Zelensky said. One of his top aides posted on social media that Ukraine's attack was meant to "persuade [Russia] to enter a fair negotiation process." Russian President Vladimir Putin, who tightly controls information in his country, downplayed the attacks, saying Ukraine had captured less land than it claimed. However, he also called the invasion a "large-scale provocation," and Russian officials said they would decide on a "worthy response." Some residents of the Kursk region were frustrated that the Russian government had not done more to protect them.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press on August 20, Ukraine was circling Russian troops in Kursk and attempting to retain control of the region. Zelensky also said Ukraine had captured Russian soldiers who could be traded for captured Ukrainian troops. But some military experts in the US and elsewhere said the attack pulled Ukrainian troops and equipment away from other important areas, and it was not clear yet whether the move would pay off. Ukraine and Russia had been scheduled to hold a meeting in Qatar to discuss a limited ceasefire (stop to the fighting). After Ukraine's invasion into Kursk, Russia postponed the meeting, and Ukraine said it would take place online.

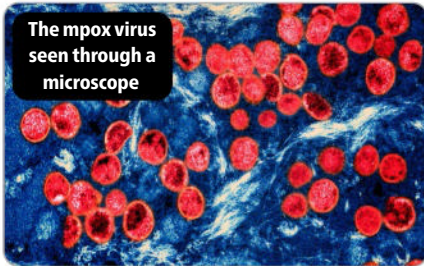


Health emergency is announced

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a virus called “mpox” to be a global health emergency after a 160% increase in cases and more than 500 deaths from the virus this year. While 96% of cases are in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), they have recently been reported in 13 other African countries, including Kenya and Uganda. Two cases of a new variant of the virus have been identified outside Africa, one in Sweden and one in the Philippines.

Mpox causes a painful rash and flu-like symptoms, such as fever and aches, and spreads through close contact with infected individuals or animals. The first human case was recorded in 1970 in what is now the DRC. Vaccines against mpox exist but are not widely available in Africa.

The new variant of mpox caused the latest outbreak, which began in the DRC. The WHO's declaration will release funds for testing and vaccine distribution. Europe, the US, and Bavarian Nordic, a vaccine manufacturer, are donating 265,000 doses to African countries.



The mpox virus seen through a microscope



A wooden church near Kenozero Lake in Russia

WOW!
Europe has the most World Heritage Sites of any continent, with 573, and Italy has the most of any country, with 60.

New heritage sites named

UNESCO has added 26 new sites to its annual World Heritage List, which features diverse historical, cultural, and natural landmarks. UNESCO is run by the United Nations (group of 193 nations) and designates places of “outstanding universal value to humanity” as World Heritage Sites. UNESCO provides financial and other support to the sites so they can be preserved, repaired, and protected for future generations to enjoy.

Among the sites listed for 2024 is Lençóis Maranhenses National Park in Brazil. Known for its vast white sand dunes, the park covers nearly 600 square miles. During the rainy season, lagoons form in the dunes, creating a stunning landscape that draws visitors from around the globe.

Also added was Phu Phra Bat Historical Park in Thailand. The park is renowned for its unique rock

formations, ancient art, and petroglyphs (rock engravings), which provide valuable insights into early human life and religion. Another addition, Via Appia Antica or the “Appian Way” in Rome, Italy, is the earliest and most significant road built by ancient Romans. The Cultural Landscape of Kenozero Lake, in Russia, includes 12th-century wooden churches and other buildings that symbolize a connection to nature.

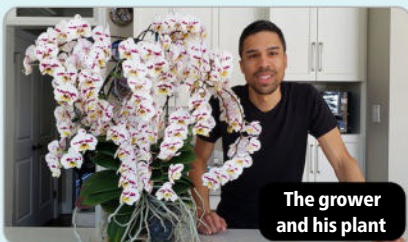
There are now 1,223 World Heritage sites in 168 countries, including the Grand Canyon in the US, the pyramids of Egypt, and the Taj Mahal in India. When a place is added to the list, tourism and the economy in the area often get a boost. In a statement, UNESCO said the new additions will now “benefit from the highest level of heritage protection in the world.”



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

ABUNDANT BLOOMS

A Canadian man broke his own world record for the most flowers on an orchid plant, with 159 blooms. Kevin Englisch, who set the record last year when he grew an orchid with 131 blooms, said he wanted to “push the boundaries.”



The grower and his plant



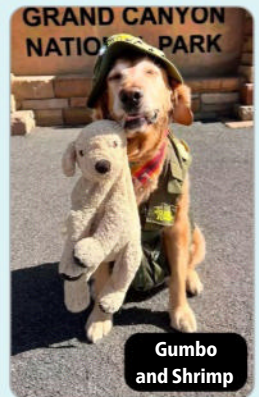
The tusk

A MAMMOTH FIND

Eddie Templeton, an avid fossil hunter, found the 7-foot-long tusk of a Columbian mammoth in a Mississippi creek bed. It is the first of its kind uncovered in the area and belonged to a creature that lived between 11,700 and 75,000 years ago. “It’s fascinating to me,” Templeton said.

A WELL-TRAVELED STUFFIE

A very good boy and his favorite stuffie are an internet hit. Gumbo, a golden retriever and retired service dog, takes his plush dog, Shrimp, with him wherever he goes. His owner posts photos of the duo camping and hiking on rocky trails, in national parks, and by rivers and waterfalls.



Gumbo and Shrimp



DID YOU KNOW?

The average academic year for most K-12 public schools is 180 days.

News on student absences



A new survey found that although the rate of student absences is decreasing, chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of school days) is higher in almost all states than it was before the pandemic. Schools' efforts to boost attendance include offering "recess" in high school and solving transportation problems.

School cell phone bans take effect

As the school year begins, laws and policies that ban or limit cell phone use in classrooms are being implemented. These rules have come about as research has shown that devices can interfere with learning and lead to problematic behavior.

What is happening?

In 2023, Florida became the first US state to pass a law requiring public schools to ban students from using smartphones and other personal devices during school hours. Louisiana and South Carolina adopted similar laws this year. Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, and Virginia lawmakers have directed their K-12 public schools to create policies that establish a device-free education. Arkansas, Delaware, and Pennsylvania are investing in programs that encourage public schools to limit

phone use. Officials in the two largest US school districts—New York City and Los Angeles—are drafting rules to limit phones for this school year.

What is included in the bans?

Florida bans phone use during school hours, requires schools to block student access to social media platforms on school wifi, and bans TikTok from school-issued devices. Students in Louisiana must turn off their devices and stow them away until the school day ends. Other schools are still drafting how they will limit cell phone use.

How will schools enforce the bans?

Many schools require students to leave their phones in holders that resemble shoe racks during class or throughout the day. In

Delaware, some middle and high schools use a storage pouch that locks phones with a magnetic closure. In many schools, students who are caught turning on a device will have it taken until the end of the day. Most policies make exceptions for emergencies.

How did people react?

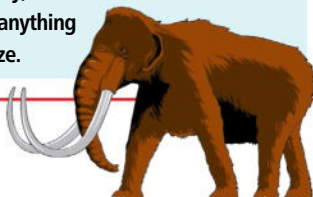
Many teachers welcomed the new rules. In one survey, more than 70% of high school teachers said phones are a "major problem." In a survey by the National Parents Union, 70% of parents said phones should be banned during class but 56% want students to have some access to their devices. Some students have objected to the rules because they use their devices to take notes or to make plans, including scheduling time at a job.



WORD OF THE WEEK

MAMMOTH

In the Russian region of Siberia, people called the remains of large mammals, which looked like elephants, *mamonts*. The word was based on a Siberian word meaning "Earth horn," due to the animal's large, curved tusks. This eventually became "mammoth" in English. Today, "mammoth" can also be used to describe anything of a huge size.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

August 29, 1997 Netflix is founded

On August 29, 1997, the media company Netflix was founded as a DVD rental service, allowing customers to rent movies through the mail with no late fees. Co-founder Reed Hastings said he was inspired to start it after being charged \$40 for the late return of a DVD to a store. Netflix began streaming content in 2007 and later began creating its own content. Today, Netflix is worth more than \$280 billion.

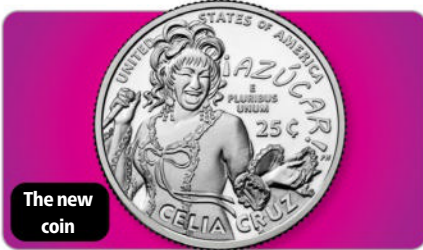




A protest

Video game artists on strike

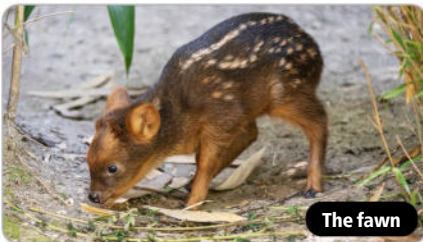
Video game performers staged a protest in Burbank, California, on August 15, calling for Hollywood studios to provide performers with protection against the use of artificial intelligence (AI) when making video games. Since the strike began on July 25, artists have paused voice acting, stunts, and other work on video games. The performers are demanding that studios pay them fairly when their work is used to generate new content using AI.



The new coin

Quarter honors historic singer

The US Mint, which makes coins, has released a quarter featuring Cuban American singer Celia Cruz (1925–2003). The coin is part of the 2024 American Women Quarters Program, which pays tribute to women who have made important contributions to the nation. Cruz came to the US in 1961 and became one of the top artists of the 20th century, helping to make salsa a well-known music genre.



The fawn

Rare deer makes NYC debut

A southern pudu fawn, one of the world's smallest deer species, made its debut at the Queens Zoo in New York City on August 15. It was born on June 21, weighing 2 pounds, and shares a habitat with its parents. The Queens Zoo works to preserve the species, which is threatened due to the loss of its habitat in Chile and Argentina. The fawn is expected to weigh 15 to 20 pounds in adulthood.



Kamala Harris and Joe Biden at the Democratic National Convention on August 19

ELECTION TRIVIA

The first major national party convention before a Presidential election was held by the National Republicans in 1831 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Democrats hold national convention

When *The Week Junior* went to press on August 20, the Democratic National Convention (DNC) had begun the day before in Chicago, Illinois, and was scheduled to end on August 22. The four-day gathering is a part of the US election process and cements the Democratic Party's support for their nominee for President (Kamala Harris) and Vice President (Tim Walz).

Both the Democrats and Republicans (the nation's other major political party) hold conventions the summer before a Presidential election. The Republican convention took place in July in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. People known as delegates, who represent voters from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and US territories, attend to hear speeches and formally nominate their candidate. Until last month, the Democrats' nominee was expected to be President Joe Biden. When he stepped down from the race on July 21, Harris became the party's choice.

On opening night, Harris made an unexpected appearance to thank Biden before he spoke later that night. Other speakers included Hillary Clinton, the former US secretary of state who was the first woman to be a major party's nominee for President in 2016. When Biden was introduced, the crowd of people at the United Center, which seats 23,500, rose to their feet, chanting "Thank you, Joe!" He then gave a 52-minute speech.

Former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama were set to speak on August 20, as was Harris' husband, Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff. Walz will speak on Wednesday, and Harris will speak on Thursday to accept the Presidential nomination.

A debate between Harris and her Republican challenger, former President Donald Trump, is scheduled for September 10. Walz and Trump's Vice Presidential running mate, JD Vance, are set to debate on October 1. The election will be held on November 5.



Convention attendees

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"California teacher shocked to find bear enjoying a snack in classroom" *The Guardian*





Around the world

The mural at the zoo



London, United Kingdom Public art depicts animal escapes

British street artist Banksy, whose identity is a mystery, has created a new mural at the entrance to the London Zoo. The spray-painted artwork was the last in a series of nine animal-themed murals throughout London and showed a gorilla lifting the zoo's gate to allow the other animals to escape. The zoo removed the mural in order to preserve it, replacing it with a copy and a sign that reads, "Banksy woz ere."



Girls in school

Afghanistan Report on girls' education

The Taliban (a military and political group with extreme views that rules Afghanistan) has stopped 1.4 million girls from getting an education, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Taliban, which has been in power since 2021, has banned girls from attending school at grades above sixth grade. "The future of an entire generation is now in jeopardy," UNESCO said.

The snow cannons



Lombardy, Italy Snow cannons cool down tourists

A ski resort is using snow cannons to cool down hikers. Some visitors have traveled to high altitudes to escape extreme heat in the rest of the country, but temperatures in the mountains have reached 80° F. The snow cannons spray water droplets, which would turn to snow in very cold temperatures. In the heat, the resort manager told *The Times*, "it's like a refreshing shower."

Dresden, Germany Stolen jewels reappear

A collection of jewels that was stolen in a major robbery is now back on display. In 2019, thieves used a cutting machine to break into the Green Vault museum in Dresden and took \$123 million worth of items. Police have recovered most of the historic jewelry and returned it to the museum, but some items are damaged and will need restoring.

The jewels



Bosnia and Herzegovina Painting sparks park idea

Vincent van Gogh's painting *The Starry Night* inspired a new nature park in the town of Visoko. When Halim Zukic saw the spirals made by tractor wheels in a nearby field, they reminded him of van Gogh's artwork. He used trees, lakes, and 130,000 lavender bushes connected by paths to form the painting's spirals and circles on his land. He wants to use the park to promote art and culture.



The nature park

GETTY IMAGES (5); ALAMY; REUTERS (2); SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

Around the world



Paetongtarn Shinawatra



Bangkok, Thailand **New leader selected**

The parliament (similar to Congress) in Thailand chose Paetongtarn Shinawatra, age 37, as the nation's new prime minister (PM). She replaces Srettha Thavisin, who was removed from office by a court on August 14. The new PM is the fourth member of her family to lead the government and the youngest person ever to be chosen as PM.



Mongolia's
Altai Mountains



Mongolia **Tourism campaign launched**

A campaign has been launched to attract more visitors to Mongolia. Although the country is known for its beautiful landscapes, its tourism industry is still suffering from the effects of the pandemic. As part of its "Welcome to MonGOLia" effort, the government is offering visits without visas (documents often needed to enter a country). Ads for tourists promote activities such as ice skating, camel racing, and reindeer sledding.



An expert
discusses
the alert.



Japan **Major earthquake warning lifted**

On August 15, Japan's government lifted a warning it had issued a week earlier for a "megaquake" (major earthquake). Authorities gave the alert after a 7.1 magnitude earthquake took place at the edge of the Nankai Trough, an area where a previous megaquake in 1946 killed more than 1,300 people. Many Japanese people canceled trips and stocked up on essential items, but no more quake activity has been detected.



The cubs



Hong Kong **Giant panda twins born**

A giant panda named Ying Ying has given birth to twins at Ocean Park Hong Kong. The cubs' arrival has extra meaning because they were born one day before Ying Ying's 19th birthday, making her the oldest panda on record to give birth for the first time. The park said the cubs—one male and one female—are about the size of a human hand and "very fragile."



Melbourne, Australia **Electric scooters banned**

On August 13, Melbourne's city council voted to ban rented electric scooters because of safety concerns. There are about 1,500 scooters available in the city for people to rent on a short-term basis. But the mayor said many people were riding them on sidewalks and parking them incorrectly, creating a tripping hazard. The scooters will have to be removed within 30 days.



A scooter



The big debate

Should self-checkout be banned?

Some shoppers love the convenience, but others just aren't buying it.

What you need to know

- Self-checkout machines enable customers to scan, bag, and pay for items without the help of a cashier.
- Self-checkouts first appeared in 1986 in a grocery store in Georgia. Today, about 96% of US groceries use them.
- A recent study found that customers who checked out with a cashier had a more positive experience and were more likely to return to the store.
- Walmart, Target, and Dollar General are removing some self-checkouts to improve customers' experiences.



Self-checkout machines are meant to provide customers with a faster and smoother shopping experience and eliminate long lines at the register. Many people prefer to scan and bag their own items and zip through the transaction without any fuss. At the same time, however, many customers complain that self-checkout causes more problems than it solves. The machines can freeze up or scan incorrectly, for example. Or a customer doesn't know the correct code for something, which requires an employee to come over and help. That slows things down and defeats the whole purpose. What do you think? Should self-checkout be banned?

Yes—humans do a better job

Self-checkout sounds like a good idea, but in reality, it's no good for anyone. Often the machines don't work, but even when they do, self-checkout is so impersonal. When you're checking out, it's nice to interact with store staff. A little chit-chat is good for the soul. In addition, self-checkout machines take jobs away from people and pass the work onto the customers, who have to scan and bag their own items. Stores say customers are more likely to take things without paying for them at self-checkout, too, whether that's on purpose or by accident. Stores end up losing money, and people may shoplift without even realizing it!

No—it makes life easier

Many customers prefer self-checkout machines. Sometimes that's because they can quickly pay for their items and go. Other times, it's because they're tired or simply don't feel like making small talk with a cashier. Self-checkout also saves the stores money, which helps them stay in business. They can hire one employee to help with several self-checkout machines, rather than several cashiers to run one register each. And self-checkout is faster, so more customers get through the line, which means more sales. Besides, you can't stop progress. People get cash from an ATM and pump their own gas, so why not ring themselves up too?

YES

Three reasons why self-checkout should be banned

- 1 Self-checkout can be slow, unreliable, and impersonal.
- 2 Machines are taking people's jobs, and it's not fair for stores to make customers do the work of scanning and bagging.
- 3 Businesses are losing money because self-checkout has led to more shoplifting and theft.

NO

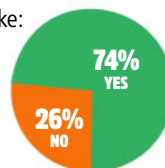
Three reasons why self-checkout should not be banned

- 1 Self-checkout is fast and requires very little interaction, which is a relief for people who are short on time or don't feel like chatting.
- 2 Stores with self-checkout can save on staffing and process transactions faster, which helps them stay in business.
- 3 Self-checkout is replacing cashiers just like ATMs replaced bank tellers.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if students should pick their seats in class. Most of you would prefer to sit where you like:

74% of you said yes, while 26% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think self-checkout should be banned or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Drumming to her own beat

In 2020, 10-year-old Nandi Bushell, from London, England, gained global attention after a virtual drum battle with Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters went viral. Now 14, Bushell has played at major venues with top artists. She spoke to *The Week Junior* about her first book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Drumming*, a beginner's guide with practical tips and personal stories.

What sparked your interest in drums?

When I was 5, I would make pancakes with my family while listening to The Beatles. Their drummer, Ringo Starr, played with a big smile on his face, and I was inspired by that. I started with a little toy drum kit, and within a year I got a proper acoustic drum kit.

In what ways is drumming magical to you?

Everything. It is a way for me to express myself, be creative, and play whatever I want.

Why did you decide to write this book?

I wanted to inspire people of all ages to pick up an instrument. I also wanted to share some of the wonderful musical experiences I have had in words and pictures.

You also write music. Where do you find inspiration?

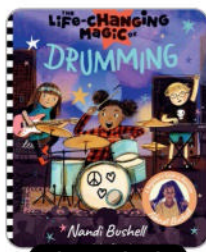
From how I'm feeling, what is going on around the world. I love expressing myself.

What is the best advice you've ever received?

When I met Questlove [a famous drummer and music producer], he signed my drumsticks with the message: "To an amazing drummer: practice, practice, practice." I've carried that with me and included it in my book.

What would your best advice to aspiring musicians be?

Have fun and do it because you want to do it. Otherwise, there's no point in doing it. Also, share your work with other musicians. It's always good to seek out other influences.



The new book



Nandi Bushell

ANCIENT ORIGINS

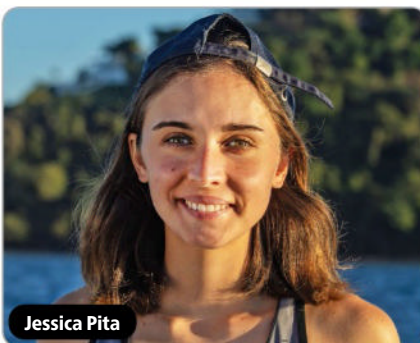
The oldest known drums are from 6000 BCE and were hollowed tree trunks.

Storming the screen

Sean Waugh, a meteorologist at the National Severe Storms Laboratory (a US agency that monitors storms), was a key adviser on the summer blockbuster *Twisters* (rated PG-13), about a storm chaser and meteorologist battling tornadoes. He ensured the film's accuracy by sharing his expertise and took cast members on real storm-chasing missions. Waugh hopes the film inspires future meteorologists. He told *The Week Junior*, "To have even a small part in bringing that passion to the next generation of scientists is an absolute honor."



Sean Waugh



Jessica Pita

Diver makes history

Jessica Pita, age 21, has become the first blind adaptive scuba diver from South Africa to be recognized by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), the world's top diving organization. Blind since age 11 due to brain tumor surgery, Pita navigates underwater through touch and hearing, with the help of a dive buddy who informs her of her surroundings. As an advocate, Pita promotes ocean conservation and highlights the achievements of people with disabilities. "Rather than focusing on what I cannot see, I focus on what I can still experience," she said.

OVERHEARD

“”



"I'm constantly inspired by the world and humanity around me."

Award-winning musician and fashion designer Pharrell Williams, age 51, who was a torch bearer in the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics



Animals and the environment

ONE OF A KIND

Just as every human has different fingerprints, each dog has a unique nose print.

Our canine companions can sense our moods.

Face shapes matter

Scientists in the UK found that certain breeds of dogs, including pugs, bulldogs, and Boston terriers, are less able to show their feelings with their facial expressions. Their wolf ancestors used ear and face movements to express emotions, but humans have bred these pets to have floppy ears and squished faces.



A pug

Human emotions affect dogs' feelings

The nose knows—especially a dog's nose. Studies have shown that dogs have a sense of smell that is many times stronger than a human's. Scientists also know that dogs can detect the emotions of people around them, sometimes just by smelling the person's breath or sweat. However, some researchers wondered if a person's emotional state could affect a dog's feelings. Now a study has revealed that dogs change their behavior when they smell a stressed-out human.

The researchers tested 18 dogs from several different breeds. To study the animals' emotions, they set up three food bowls in different locations, placing a treat in certain

bowls and leaving others empty. The researchers taught the dogs that some bowls contained food, then allowed the pups to approach an unknown bowl. If a dog walked to the bowl quickly, this showed that it felt optimistic (positive or hopeful) about finding a treat inside. If a pup hesitated or moved slowly, this showed that it was feeling pessimistic (negative or doubtful) about finding a snack in the bowl.

Next, the researchers had to determine whether human stress would affect the dogs. To do this, they collected sweat samples from people who were experiencing stress while doing challenging math problems or giving a five-minute speech.

Another sweat sample was collected while the people were in a relaxed state after watching calming videos. The dogs sniffed one of the sweat samples and then repeated the bowl task.

After smelling the sweat of a relaxed person, the dogs walked toward the bowl as usual. But when they smelled a stressed-out person, they were more hesitant to approach the bowl. This suggests that they began feeling down when they sensed that a human was distressed. Since the pups felt pessimistic, they were less willing to risk being disappointed by an empty bowl.

The study's findings could be helpful to dog owners and trainers. "Importantly, it highlights how in tune dogs are at picking up on mood," said lead author Zoe Parr-Cortes. This means that "happy, fun engagement is the best way to have a good relationship and a happy dog."



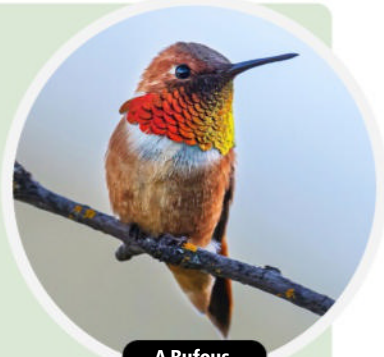
Feeling down may change a dog's behavior.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Mount Tabor Park, Oregon

This public space in Portland was the first in the country—and ninth in the world—to be designated an Urban Quiet Park because of its low noise levels. The sprawling city park is located on the site of an extinct volcano and has reservoirs, walking and biking trails, and an outdoor amphitheater. Plant lovers can see 53 tree species, including Douglas firs and vine maples, and there are plenty of birds to delight birdwatchers. Species that live there include Hutton's vireos, lesser goldfinches, Rufous hummingbirds, and Swainson's thrushes.



A Rufous hummingbird



WOW!

More than 3,000 animals, belonging to nearly 400 species, live at the Phoenix Zoo.



An orangutan enjoys a chilly treat.

Summer snow day at Phoenix Zoo

Temperatures in Phoenix, Arizona, can soar higher than 110° F during the summer, but that didn't stop the animals at the Phoenix Zoo from enjoying a snow day on July 19. Ten tons of ice were brought to the zoo and fed into a machine that turned it into snow. Zookeepers then spread the snow throughout animal habitats.

Not every animal chose to interact with the snow, but several creatures enjoyed playing in the wintry wonderland, including Indu the Asian elephant and Chutti the greater one-horned rhino. Keepers also offered frozen treats, which

encouraged foraging behaviors while cooling animals down. An orangutan got a peanut popsicle, tigers ate ice treats with fish inside them, and African painted dogs received meat-flavored "bloodsicles."

This is the third year the Phoenix Zoo has hosted a snow event. "The day is special every summer," zoo official Linda Hardwick told *The Guardian*, because it "sparks curiosity" in the animals and "stimulates their senses in ways they wouldn't experience every day." To see the animals enjoying their snow day, visit tinyurl.com/TWJUS-SnowDay.

Animal of the week

Siamese crocodile



In Cambodia's Cardamom National Park, 60 Siamese crocodile eggs have hatched in the wild. Local people found the eggs in nests and protected them until they hatched. The births are a big boost for the critically endangered species.

- **LIFE SPAN:** About 22 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Slow-moving rivers, lakes, and swamps
- **SIZE:** Up to 13 feet long and 771 pounds
- **DIET:** Fish, snakes, frogs, and some mammals
- **FUN FACT:** They were thought to be extinct in the wild until they were rediscovered in 2000.



Good week / Bad week



Tigers in Thailand

The number of Indochinese tigers in Thailand's Western Forest Complex has more than doubled since 2007, thanks to conservation efforts. Officials limited hunting and tree cutting to protect the endangered tigers and their prey.



Male frogs

Scientists found that female green and golden bell frogs sometimes eat males if they are not happy with their mating calls. Larger males with deeper calls are more likely to be selected as mates, while smaller ones often become food.



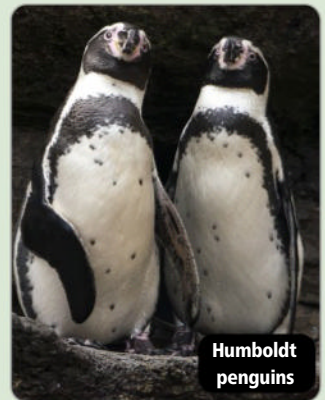
"How do penguins choose their mates?"

Margo, 9, California

Cody Hickman

Associate director of avian care, Brookfield Zoo

Female Humboldt penguins take the lead. They start the courtship process by creating situations in which both penguins groom each other and become familiar with each other's sounds. This will help them locate one another easily in a colony. Once they find a mate, they usually stay together for life.



Humboldt penguins

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the Brookfield Zoo at brookfieldzoo.org.



Paralympics preview

Let the next Games

The world-famous sports event is full of action and excitement.

From August 28 to September 8 in Paris, France, about 4,400 top athletes will compete in 549 medal events at the Paralympic Games. Para athletes have impairments that may be physical (affecting the body's shape or movement), visual (affecting the ability to see), or intellectual (affecting thinking or communication). Here is what you can expect at the 2024 Paralympics.

Who can participate?



Tatyana McFadden (left) and Susannah Scaroni

Long before the Games begin, athletes compete in tournaments to earn a spot representing their country as one of the best in a sport. Paralympic athletes belong to six disability groups: amputee (a person who has had part or all of an arm or leg removed), cerebral palsy (a condition that affects movement), visual impairment, spinal injury, intellectual disability, and a group of athletes who are not in the other categories. For each sport, competitors are divided into classes based on how their impairment affects them. This ensures that athletes compete against others with similar abilities and everyone starts off with a fair chance to win a medal.

History of the Games

Sports for athletes with impairments have existed for more than 100 years. They became prominent after soldiers returned from World War II (1939–1945) with injuries.



Dr. Ludwig Guttman

In 1948, during the London Olympics, UK doctor Ludwig Guttman held an archery competition nearby for athletes who used wheelchairs. The contests

expanded to include wheelchair basketball, Para swimming, and other events. In 1960, the first official Paralympics took place in Rome, Italy, with 400 athletes from 23 countries. Today, the Summer Paralympics are held every four years, and the Winter Paralympics follow two years later.



Scarlett Humphrey

TOKYO TRIUMPHS

Team USA won 104 medals at the Tokyo Paralympics in 2021, including 37 golds, to place third overall.

UNDEFEATED CHAMPIONS

Brazil has won every Paralympic blind soccer tournament since the sport's debut in 2004.



Triathletes

This year's Games

France is hosting the Summer Paralympics for the first time. On opening day, athletes from 184 national teams will parade through Paris along a famous avenue called the Champs-Élysées. To show appreciation for differences, the Paralympic mascot—a Phryge, a hat that symbolizes freedom in France—has a running blade prosthesis (artificial body part).



Paralympic sports

A total of 22 sports will be played at the Paris Paralympics, including two that have been expanded since their debut at the previous Games: badminton and taekwondo. Many Paralympic sports are similar to Olympic sports with some adaptations. For example, Para swimming is nearly the same as Olympic swimming, but athletes can start in different ways and use varying techniques. In powerlifting, athletes

lie on a bench, rather than stand, and use their upper-body strength to lift. Track and field events allow the use of prosthetic (artificial) legs and racing



Powerlifting at Porte de la Chapelle Arena

Paralympics preview



begin



Ezra Frech

DID YOU KNOW?
The Paralympic Games' logo is made up of three waves—in red, blue, and green—called *agitos*. *Agito* is Latin for “I move.”



Sevda Altunoluk

wheelchairs. In some events, such as Para triathlon, athletes may have a guide or helper if needed.

Other sports are unique to the Paralympics. Goalball, one of the oldest Para sports, is for athletes with vision impairments. Teams of three athletes face off to

throw a ball into the other team's net to earn points. The ball contains bells so athletes can hear where it is as it hurtles across the court at up to 37 miles per hour. Para sports like wheelchair rugby and wheelchair basketball are fast-paced and full-contact.



Steve Serio

Who to watch

Team USA is ready to compete with track and field stars **Tatyana McFadden**, **Susannah Scaroni**, and **Ezra Frech**, along with 20-year-old newcomer **Jaydin Blackwell**. Two-time Olympic rower **Laurent Cadot**, judo star **Sandrine Aurieres-Martinet**, and table tennis champion **Fabien Lamirault** will try to make France proud on their home soil. **Sheetal Devi** of India, a 17-year-old armless archer who ranks first in her category worldwide, will make her Paralympic debut. **Oksana Masters**, who hold a record 14 medals from the Winter Paralympics, will race for the US in cycling, and **Sarah Adam** will



Jaydin Blackwell



Laurent Cadot



Sheetal Devi



Sarah Adam



Lingling Guo

make history as the first woman to play on a US Paralympic wheelchair rugby team. Other stars who could bring the US glory are swimmer **Jessica Long** and wheelchair basketball players **Steve Serio** and **Trevon Jenifer**. The UK's **Hannah Cockcroft** will go for gold in wheelchair racing, and look out for 19-year-old twins **Eliza** and **Scarlett Humphrey** as they aim to rule the pool. Brazil, led by star **Josemarcio Sousa**, reigns in men's Goalball while Turkey's **Sevda Altunoluk** was the women's top scorer in the last Games. And don't miss **Lingling Guo** of China—she could set a new world record in powerlifting.

How to watch

A select number of events will be airing on NBC, CNBC, and USA Network during the Games. In addition, all Paralympic events will be available on Peacock, NBC's streaming service, adding up to more than 1,500 hours of live coverage. Closed captioning will be available on all platforms for every Paralympic event.

The medals

The 2024 Paralympic medals feature a design representing a view of the Eiffel Tower from below. On the back is a six-sided piece of iron that was once part of the tower. The medals are also engraved in Braille, a raised alphabet that is used by people with vision impairments.



August 30, 2024



DID YOU KNOW?

First discovered in 1856, Neanderthals got their name because their bones were found in a cave in Germany's Neander Valley.



An illustration of early humans

How did early humans interact?

When homo sapiens (modern humans) first appeared between 200,000 and 300,000 years ago, other human species already existed. These included Neanderthals, our closest known human relatives. In a new study, scientists explored the relationship between the species.

For many years, scientists have been trying to determine how—and how much—homo sapiens and Neanderthals interacted. In 2010, scientists analyzed the DNA (chemical that carries instructions for how a living thing should grow and develop) of a Neanderthal fossil. They compared it to modern human DNA and discovered that many people alive today carry about 1% to 2% of Neanderthal DNA. That meant the two species had mated and the genes (short sections of DNA) were passed down.

For the new study, a team led by Joshua Akey of Princeton University in New Jersey wanted to answer the opposite question: How much modern human DNA did Neanderthals have? They analyzed DNA taken from the fossils of three Neanderthals and 2,000 living humans.

Akey and his team found that 2.5% to 3.7% of the Neanderthals' DNA came from modern

humans. One out of every 30 parents in a Neanderthal population was a homo sapien.

The team also determined that there were three main periods during which modern humans and Neanderthals mixed. The first was between 250,000 and 200,000 years ago, not long after the earliest homo sapiens appeared. The second occurred between 105,000 and 120,000 years ago, and the third was between 50,000 and 60,000 years ago.

Akey's team also found clues to what may have caused the Neanderthals to die out about 40,000 years ago.

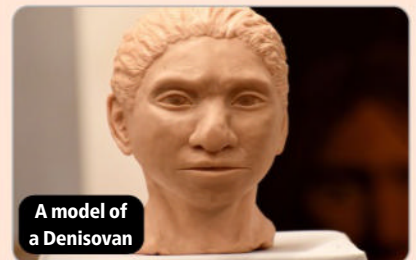
Neanderthals were a smaller population and had a smaller variety of genes than homo sapiens did. That would have made it easy for the modern humans and their genes to take over. In other words, over many years, the babies of Neanderthals and homo sapiens acquired more and more homo sapien genes, causing Neanderthals to gradually fade away.

"Neanderthals were overwhelmed by waves of modern humans," Akey said. "The modern human population eventually absorbed the Neanderthals."



Scientists think Neanderthals looked like this model.

Who were the Denisovans?



A model of a Denisovan

Denisovans are another extinct species closely related to modern humans, which lived at about the same time as Neanderthals and the first homo sapiens. They were first identified in 2010, based on DNA analysis of fossils found in the Denisova cave in Russia. Fewer than 12 Denisovan fossils have been found, however, so a lot about them remains unknown, including when they went extinct.

A recent study identified a Denisovan rib bone from the Tibetan Plateau that is between 48,000 and 32,000 years old. The discovery indicates that a population of Denisovans survived in the Plateau's harsh environment from about 200,000 to 40,000 years ago. They hunted animals, such as snow leopards, for food and used their bones as tools.



Planet-friendly butter is created from thin air

A California company called Savor has created a butter-like spread that's made from carbon dioxide (CO₂) instead of milk. CO₂ is a greenhouse gas, which traps heat in Earth's atmosphere and contributes to climate change.

Traditionally, butter is made from the fat in milk or cream from farm animals. But raising the animals accounts for about 14.5% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. While plant-based butter alternatives exist, their ingredients still require land, water, and space to grow.

Savor wanted to create a butter that tasted great and was also planet-friendly. Fats like butter are made up of chains of the elements hydrogen and carbon. Elements are

simple chemicals that can't be broken down into smaller parts.

Scientists at Savor pulled CO₂ from the air and combined it with hydrogen and oxygen to create fat, then mixed the fat with water to turn it into

butter. They added a substance called beta-carotene for color and rosemary for flavor.

Savor's animal-free butter helps the Earth in two ways: It removes CO₂ from the air, and it does not rely on limited resources to

raise farm animals or grow crops. And, according to early reports, it tastes good too. "I couldn't believe I wasn't eating real butter," said business executive Bill Gates, who has funded Savor. The product will be available to consumers within a year or two.



Regular butter is made from cow's milk.



Butter gets its distinctive taste and texture from fat.

WOW!
Butter has existed for about 10,000 years and was used to soothe sore throats in ancient Rome.



An artist's rendering of a view from inside the lunar cave

Cave discovered on the Moon

Scientists studying images of the Moon's surface spotted a cave, which could one day be used as a base by astronauts. The team of researchers at the University of Trento in Italy were studying data from the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), a spacecraft operated by NASA (the US space agency).

The cave is located in a large, flat area on the Moon called the Sea of Tranquility, which is where NASA astronauts first landed in 1969. Its

opening is about 148 feet wide and between 98 and 262 feet long. It could be between 426 and 558 feet deep and is most likely one of many caves on the Moon.

Further research into the cave could help scientists learn about the Moon's structure and history. In theory, it could also be a good place to set up a lunar base because it would protect astronauts from extreme temperatures and also shield them from the Sun's rays.



A grocery robot that delivers



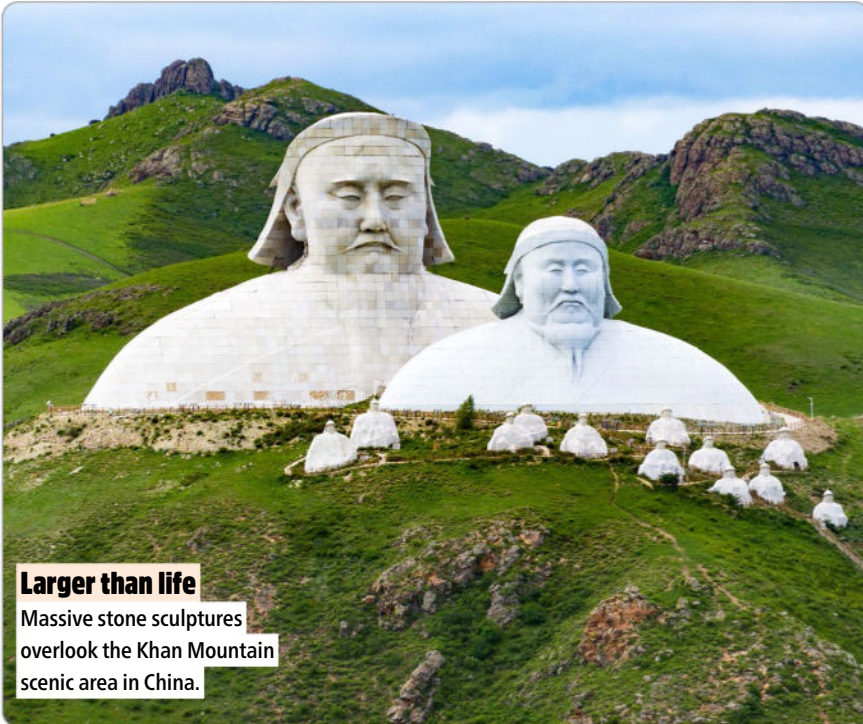
The One

A four-wheeled robot can travel along sidewalks, cross streets, mount curbs, and roll up driveways to bring groceries to your door. The One was designed by Vayuu, a California company, and uses artificial intelligence to navigate on its own.

The One follows grocery store staff while they load it up with a customer's order. Then it heads out for delivery, traveling at a speed of up to 20 miles per hour. When it reaches its destination, it opens up a side door and takes the groceries out with a robotic arm.



Photos of the week



Larger than life

Massive stone sculptures overlook the Khan Mountain scenic area in China.



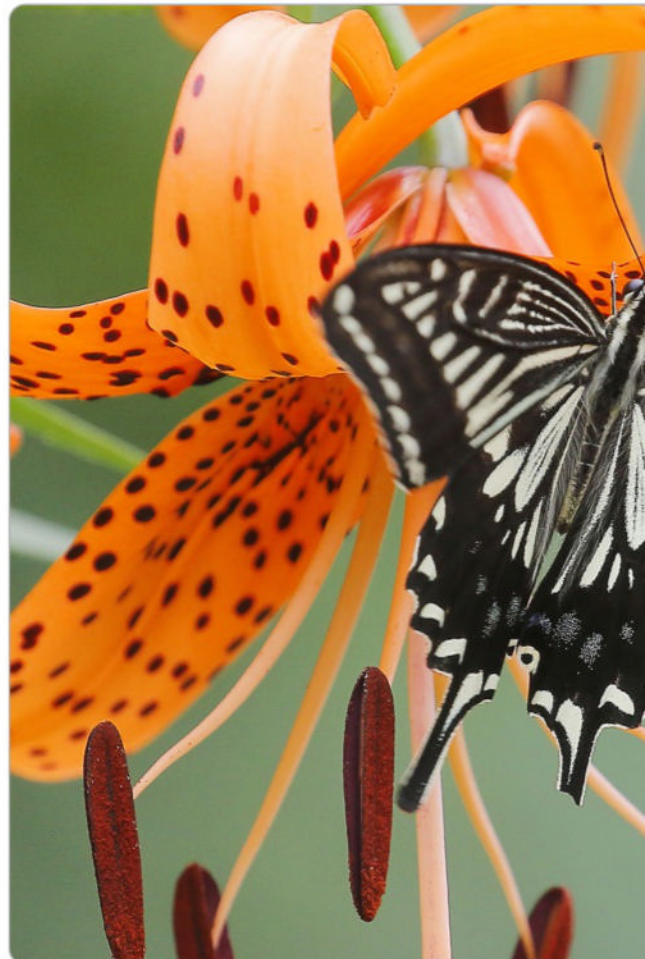
Hop of color

This image of a rare blue tree frog was captured in Turkey.



Ancient arch

This photo shows part of an antique system of storing rain water in Spain.





Colorful tradition

A performer dressed as a Hindu god takes part in a festival in India.



Winging it

A swallowtail butterfly lands on a trumpet lily in South Korea.



Water works

A fountain adorns a garden at a royal palace in Poland.



Sports



TOP TEAM

After winning the gold medal in soccer at the Paris Olympics, the US Women's National Team is now the number one team in the world.

Carolina Ascent FC teammates celebrate their win.

Teams on tour



Two famous European soccer teams—Arsenal and Chelsea—are playing friendly matches against women's teams in the US. On August 18, Arsenal beat the Washington Spirit, 2–1 (above). On August 19, Chelsea won, 3–1, against Gotham FC. On August 25, Arsenal and Chelsea will play each other for the first time on US soil.

Strong start for new pro soccer league

The inaugural season of the United Soccer League Super League (USLS), a new professional women's soccer league, is underway. The action kicked off on August 17.

The USLS is part of the United Soccer League (USL), which includes multiple US leagues at different levels of competition. With eight clubs playing in the first season, and future plans to expand to 20 teams, the USLS will join the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) as the only other Division 1 (highest level) women's league in the country.

The NWSL plays its season from spring through fall. But the USLS will mirror the

European soccer schedule by playing from fall through spring. All players who joined the league were previously free agents, meaning they were not playing for another pro soccer team. Unlike many other new sports leagues that select players in a draft, the USLS allowed players to choose which team they wanted to play for.



The new league's logo

Two matches took place on the opening day of competition. The first, between Carolina Ascent FC and DC Power FC, was played at American Legion Memorial Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina. Carolina won by a score of 1–0, securing the first victory in the new league's history. The lone goal was scored by Vicky Bruce with an

assist from teammate Audrey Harding in the 27th minute of the game.

The second match on August 17, played at ONE Spokane Stadium in Spokane, Washington, resulted in a 1–1 tie between Spokane Zephyr FC and Fort Lauderdale United FC. Emina Ekic opened the scoring for Spokane Zephyr FC by burying a penalty shot in the 17th minute. Fort Lauderdale evened the score with a goal by Addie McCain, with fewer than 20 minutes left to play.

In another highly competitive contest on August 18, Dallas Trinity FC and Tampa Bay Sun FC tied 1–1 at Riverfront Stadium in Tampa, Florida. Hannah Davison of Dallas scored just before halftime to take the lead for her team. Later, with 20 minutes left, Brooke Hendrix of Tampa Bay answered with a goal to tie the score.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

CYCLING

In a thrilling finish to the women's Tour de France, one of the most prestigious races in cycling, Kasia Niewiadoma of Poland won by four seconds on August 18. Her victory over runner-up Demi Vollering of the Netherlands was the closest margin in the history of the men's or women's Tour de France. Niewiadoma completed the course distance of about 590 miles in 24 hours, 36 minutes, and 7 seconds.



Kasia Niewiadoma

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Indiana Fever rookie Caitlin Clark broke the WNBA record for most assists in a rookie season in a win over the Seattle Storm on August 18. Her 232 assists this season lead the WNBA.

MEN'S SOCCER

Manchester City, the reigning champions of the English Premier League, won their first match of the season on August 18, defeating Chelsea, 2–0. Erling Haaland and Mateo Kovačić scored for Manchester City.



STAR SLUGGER

Aaron Judge won the Rookie of the Year award in 2017, after his first season in Major League Baseball.

Aaron Judge hits his record-breaking homer.



Aaron Judge hits 300th home run

On August 14, New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge made history by hitting his 300th career home run in a 10–2 victory over the Chicago White Sox. The game, which was the 955th of Judge's career, was played at Guaranteed Rate Field in Chicago, Illinois.

Judge, who is 32 years old and made his Major League Baseball (MLB) debut in 2016, reached the milestone of 300 home runs faster than any player in MLB history. He shattered the record held by Ralph Kiner, who began his MLB career in 1946 and hit 300 homers in 1,087 games.

Other big-name MLB players have reached the 300 mark in a similar number of games played. They include Ryan Howard (1,093), Juan Gonzalez (1,096), Alex Rodriguez (1,117),

Judge's teammate Giancarlo Stanton (1,119), Harmon Killebrew (1,137), Mark McGwire (1,148), and Albert Pujols (1,165).

In the game on August 14, Judge set another record by reaching 300 home runs in the 3,431st at-bat of his career. The previous record, held by baseball legend Babe Ruth for nearly 100 years, was 3,831 at-bats. Ruth hit 714 home runs during his career and held the record for the most home runs in MLB history for nearly 40 years.

After Judge hit his 300th home run, Yankees manager Aaron Boone praised him in his postgame press conference. "What Aaron is doing is among a select few in the history of the game," he said. "It's a special group to be in," Judge said. "It's just an honor to be in the same category...and mentioned in the same sentence."



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Shireen Khamedoost**

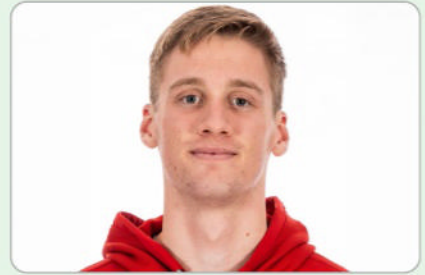
Team: **National Academy of Artistic Gymnastics**

"Coach Shireen is the best gymnastics coach I could have asked for. Gymnastics is a very tough sport, both mentally and physically, so sometimes it can be difficult to find a coach who can support you in both ways, but she is amazing. I've had many injuries throughout my time in gymnastics, and she has always been there for me. I have had her as a coach for at least five years and she really helped me improve in this sport!" Maia, 14, Oregon



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Tyus Wilson

AGE: 21 SPORT: TRACK AND FIELD (HIGH JUMP)
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Family ties In college, my mom did high jump, long jump, and triple jump, and my dad was a high jumper and hurdler. I was probably 5 or 6 when I started doing summer track. Around second or third grade, I was allowed to do the high jump. I tried it out and fell in love with it.

Good lesson One time at practice, I was doing some bounds into a sand pit, and they weren't as far as I wanted them to be. I grabbed the sand and threw it, and it flew in my coaches' faces. I realized I had to fix my attitude because if one thing goes wrong and I make a scene about it, I'm never going to have fun.

So sore Jumping high is really hard on your legs. After I jumped 7'6" at the Big Ten Championships, I didn't feel 100% until about eight or 10 days later.

On his mind So much goes through your brain during a competition. I try to stay away from calculating what place I'll be in. Once that clouds your brain, you lose focus on what you're doing.

Aiming high One of the fun things about my sport is there's always room for that bar to get a little higher. You never have a perfect jump. You have really, really good jumps, but there's always something you can improve.

Big goal I came in third place at this year's Olympic trials, and I'd like to turn my childhood dream of making the Olympics into a reality.

Wise words Everyone's built differently. Don't compare yourself to someone else as far as what they can do and what you can't. Just do your best.





Arts and entertainment



**WATER
WORLD**

The ocean covers more than 70% of the surface of the Earth.

A deep-sea submersible in *OceanXplorers*

Show about underwater explorers

The new documentary series *OceanXplorers* combines action and science as it takes viewers into the depths of the sea.

Eighty percent of the Earth's oceans have never been mapped, and the new National Geographic series *OceanXplorers* is following experts on adventures to hidden aquatic frontiers. The show is set aboard the one-of-a-kind OceanXplorer, a high-tech vessel made for deep-sea exploration and media production. Episodes are now on Disney+ and Hulu.

The OceanXplorer includes four labs to study marine life, four deep-sea submersibles, special cameras that can capture clear images at extreme

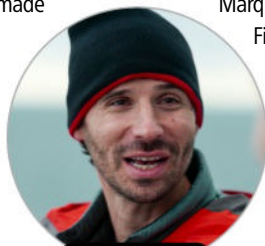
depths, and a control center where scientists can produce 3D visualizations. Seventy people worked aboard the vessel during filming, including ocean technology innovator Eric Stackpole, adventurer Aldo Kane, shark biologist Melissa Cristina

Márquez, and deep-sea researcher Zoleka Filander. They studied the prehistoric sixgill shark in the mid-Atlantic, followed humpback whales in the Caribbean, and investigated polar bear life on Norway's icy shores.

Stackpole, who used to work at NASA (the US space agency), told *The Week Junior* that the ocean, like

space, is "a vast unexplored place teeming with life we don't understand." One of his favorite moments during filming was when he flew in OceanXplorer's helicopter to capture aerial views of a gathering of whales. Stackpole also liked being in the submersibles, which can go more than 3,000 feet deep. "We are seeing things that no one has really ever seen before," he said.

Viewers can expect to be wowed by what they see, too, since the series was made by filmmaker James Cameron and the team behind the series *Blue Planet II*. "Not only will people get a lot of information about what exploration is like," Stackpole said, "but it's going to be stunning."



Eric Stackpole

More undersea exploration

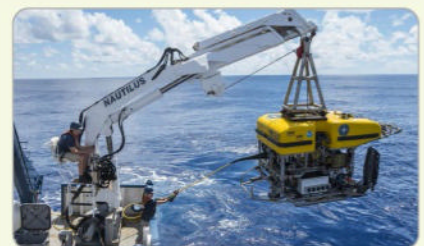
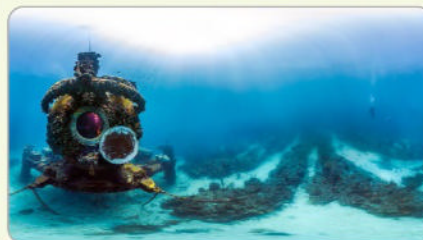


The Conshelf I, II, and III

These underwater habitats were developed in the 1960s by legendary French explorer Jacques Cousteau. They helped advance marine science by making it possible to live and work underwater and on the sea floor for hours at a time.

The Aquarius Underwater Laboratory

This lab is about five miles off the Florida Keys and the only research facility below sea level. It is run by Florida International University and NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).



SUBSEA

The Systematic Underwater Biogeochemical Science and Exploration Analog was launched by NASA in 2017. The program uses technology developed for space, including remote-controlled robots, to study the deep sea.



DID YOU KNOW?

The origin of ballet has been traced back to Italy in about the 15th century.



Everybody Dance

Film follows a dance class for all

Everybody Dance is an award-winning documentary that follows a group of dancers as they take ballet classes and prepare for a big recital. What makes their story special is that they are a part of Ballet for All Kids, a dance program for kids and teens with physical disabilities, learning differences, or certain body types, who often aren't accommodated in typical classes. The film is free on Prime Video, Tubi, and YouTube and can be rented on other platforms.

Dan Watt, a former dancer, dance teacher, and choreographer, directed *Everybody Dance*. One of the goals of the film, he told *The Week Junior*, was to "get the message out that the arts are for everyone" and show that "everyone can learn something and succeed" if lessons are available to them.

Finding a program that offered full ballet classes for kids with disabilities wasn't easy, he

said. He searched across the US before discovering Ballet for All Kids in Agoura Hills, California. It was founded by Bonnie Schlachte, who created teaching methods for kids with different learning styles or physical differences. For example, when she has a student who learns best with visuals, she uses props to show them how to move.



Dan Watt

Some students in her program also get help from other dancers. Watt and a cameraman filmed classes over 10 months and focused on a few students. "I wanted to be a fly on the wall and let them tell their stories, in their words," he said. Watt said that *Everybody Dance* is about "determination, dedication, confidence, community, and—most importantly— inclusion." He said that embracing differences "can help us see the wonders of the world and the wonders of dancing to our own rhythms." And yet, he added, "we can still all dance together."



READER RECOMMENDS



Haikyuu!! TV-14 (Netflix, Amazon Prime, Crunchyroll)

"This show, which has English subtitles, is based on a popular Japanese manga series that was written and illustrated by Haruichi Furudate. It is about Shoyo Hinata, a boy with a passion for volleyball. At the end of junior high, his team was beaten by a team with a player named Tobio Kageyama. When Shoyo starts at Karasuno High School, he joins the volleyball team and discovers Tobio is on it too. The pair end up becoming friends and one of the greatest duos in volleyball. Throughout the show, they find themselves facing off against old teammates and rivals." Julia, 10, Nevada

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Are You Sure?!

(Disney+)

K-pop superstars Jimin and Jung Kook of the group BTS go on a summer adventure in this travel series, which was filmed before their mandatory enlistment in the South Korean military. They explore New York, Connecticut, Jeju Island in South Korea, and Sapporo in Japan.



Backyard Wilderness

(Netflix)

In this nature documentary, hidden cameras reveal what is going on inside dens and nests, along the forest floor, and in a pond near one girl's suburban home. Her appreciation for nature grows thanks to the turtles, deer, ladybugs, and other animals she sees.



Like a Girl

(Fuse TV)

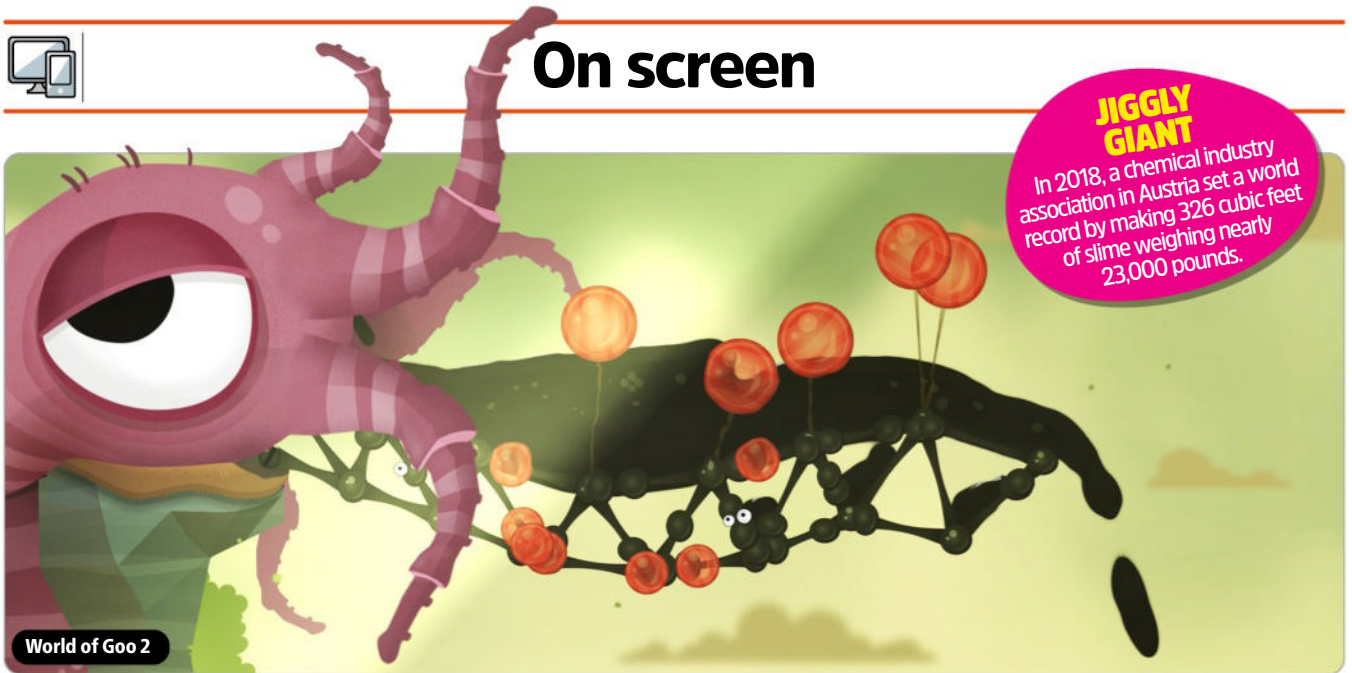
Sports journalists MJ Acosta-Ruiz and Joy Taylor host this series that features female athletes such as soccer pro Sydney Leroux, flag football star Diana Flores, and tennis player Taylor Townsend chatting about their experiences and the challenges in women's sports. It is rated TV-14.



On screen

JIGGLY GIANT

In 2018, a chemical industry association in Austria set a world record by making 326 cubic feet of slime weighing nearly 23,000 pounds.



World of Goo 2

A new gooey puzzle game

World of Goo 2 is a new physics-based puzzle game. It was recently released for the Nintendo Switch and PC. It is a sequel to the award-winning World of Goo, which was released in 2008, and is rated T.

Both the old and new games are set on a planet filled with Goo Balls, creatures that are made of liquid. You work for a giant corporation called the World of Goo, which uses the balls to make all kinds of products. The corporation has set up pipes throughout the planet, and you have to connect Goo Balls together to get them into the pipes, which suck them up. The key is to form triangles with the balls and use them to create bridges, towers, and other structures to get to the pipes. Since they're made of goo, though, they can easily fall.



Reaching the pipes takes careful planning and skillful building. The goo has to stretch, soar, and fly over hills, cliffs, valleys, dangerous drops, and other difficult terrain. Spikes, buzzsaws, and other obstacles ramp up the challenge. There are Undo Bugs flying around that come in handy when you're building and need to go back a step. On each level, you'll score more points by using the fewest balls possible, but it's better for new players to focus on building skills instead.

Some Goo Balls have special powers. For example, Balloon Goo helps structures float, Ivy Goo can be used over and over, Liquid Goo helps in tight spaces, and Jelly Goo can be cut into pieces. There is even Growing Goo and Explosive Goo, giving you more ways to get creative while you're building.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

INSTRUMENT PLAYGROUND

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-InstrumentPlayground

Make music with this interactive tool from Google Arts and Culture. First, you pick an adjective and an instrument—options include cello, guitar, and harmonica. Then the site generates a 20-second tune. After that, you can make adjustments to customize the track so it's all your own.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK



SMASH BOOM BEST

Apple Podcasts, Spotify

Episodes of this series feature fun debates such as Stripes vs. Polka Dots or Pogo Sticks vs. Unicycles. The show's two hosts each try to make their case for one side, giving listeners reasons to vote for them in four different rounds. Along the way, they share surprising facts related to the debate topic.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

OUR FAVORITE BEETLES

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-DarwinsBeetles

Museums usually display only 1% to 3% of their collections. This video from the Natural History Museum in London, England, reveals some of the millions of beetles it has stored. You'll see some of the largest and smallest species, along with ones collected by famous scientist Charles Darwin.





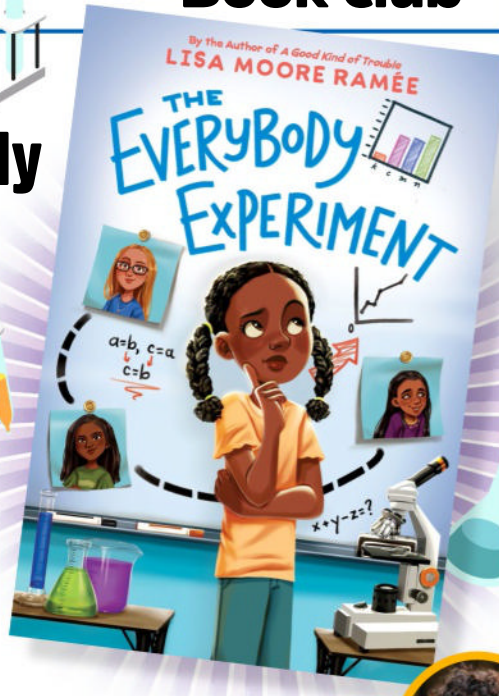
BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Everybody Experiment

By Lisa Moore Ramée

(Harper)

It's the summer before seventh grade, and Kylie is worried that her three best friends since preschool, Naomi, Nikila, and Mara, are going to stop hanging out with her in middle school. Kylie frequently cries, even in front of her friends, because she is very sensitive. Will they think she's too babyish? To keep her friends, she devises an experiment to answer the question "Would a girl be mature if she does what everybody else does?" For several weeks, Kylie goes along with whatever her friends want to do: She watches movies that are too scary for her, goes on thrill rides at a theme park that she doesn't think she will enjoy, and dresses up as a rock star at a party even though she wanted to be a mermaid. Sometimes she's happy that she had a new experience, but other times she wishes she had the courage to be her own person. When one of her friends does something that is wrong, Kylie will have to rethink whether being a follower is the best path to take. You'll root for Kylie as she works through many awkward situations. It's especially fun to read her lists of scientific "observations" about her experiment at the end of many of the chapters.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Lisa Moore Ramée

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

What inspired this book?

My daughter often couldn't hold her tears back when she was in elementary school. Her experience stuck with me about how difficult it was to be the kid who cried easily.

What do you hope readers take away from this book?

The fear of the unknown or a fear of something is normal. The other big message of this book is that you don't have to be the same as your friends in order for you to be friends.

Is there a character you relate to most?

I relate to Kylie's little sister, Briana, who wants to play pretend all the time. That was me as a child.

Growing up, what did you hope to be?

For a long time, I wanted to be an actress. I would practice making my Oscar acceptance speech in my room.

Any advice you would give your younger self?

Be nicer.



4 books with dogs as main characters

Paws up for these canine stories full of mystery, adventure, and heart.



The Department of Lost Dogs

By Josephine Cameron

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Rondo's parents own a dog-friendly hotel, and a TV show featuring canine actors is being filmed there. When star dogs start to disappear, Rondo tries to crack the case. This book is by the author who wrote the popular *A Dog-Friendly Town*. Ages 8–12



Mr. Whiskers and the Shenanigan Sisters

By Wendelin Van Draanen

(Knopf Books for Young Readers)

After Misty and Zelda's dad is kidnapped, a stray dog who goes by Mr. Whiskers follows the getaway car and picks up on clues. Will Mr. Whiskers be able to help rescue the sisters' dad? Secret passageways, riddles, and treasure play an important role in this action-packed mystery. Ages 8–12



Ripley: Fire Station Five

By W. Bruce Cameron

(Starscape)

Ripley, a border collie, is just a puppy when this book begins. He gets trained as a fire search and rescue dog as well as an emotional support pet. This sweet story is the second in the Dogs with a Purpose series and it's told from Ripley's point of view. Ages 8–12



Secondhand Dogs

By Carolyn Crimi

(Balzer + Bray)

Miss Lottie has several dogs she has adopted from a pet rescue shelter. Decker, her new rescue dog, doesn't get along with the four other pooches. When Decker convinces one of the other rescue dogs to go on a dangerous journey, the oldest dog has to find them before the coyotes do. Ages 8–12

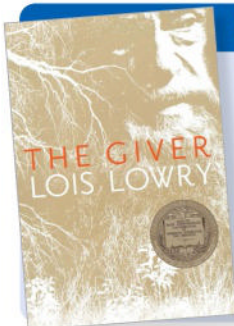


READER RECOMMENDS

The Giver By Lois Lowry

"Jonas lives in a rigid and uniform community, where everything is black and white and nobody can express emotion. They cannot make decisions for themselves and no creativity is possible. Jonas has a special gift and is chosen for a position to hold all the memories and feelings of the community. This new job changes him, and then he decides to change his community." Amisha, 11, North Carolina

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.





How to...

ALL OVER THE WORLD
Grandparents make up 20% of the global population.



Celebrate your grandparents

Try these easy ways to make sure they know you appreciate them.

September 8 is Grandparents' Day—a perfect opportunity to make your grandparents feel special. It's been a national holiday since 1979, but if you haven't celebrated it before, this could be a good year to start.

Volunteer together

The official theme of Grandparents' Day is "Do Something Grand." One way to mark the day is to spend it volunteering with your grandparents. Talk to them about what they might like to do. If they love the outdoors, you could spend time cleaning up one of their favorite parks. If they enjoy reading, find out if there are volunteer opportunities at the library. If they love to cook, you could collect nonperishable food or make bagged lunches to bring to a food pantry. Helping others is a great experience to share with your grandparents and will help you make memories you'll never forget.

Plan an activity

Another way to celebrate your grandparents is to simply spend time with them—which is many grandparents' favorite thing to do. You could plan to share a meal, go for a walk, read together, or invite them to one of your activities. If they don't live close by, you can video call

them to chat or to do something together, such as knitting or making one of their cherished recipes.

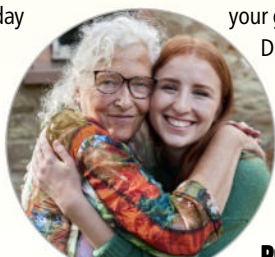
Record a message

You can also celebrate your grandparents by making them a special video message. Ask your parents for help recording you on video. You can start by wishing your grandparents a happy Grandparents'

Day, then share some favorite memories of times you have spent together. If you have siblings, they can be part of your video or they can create their own. It's like a digital card your grandparents can watch when they're missing you.

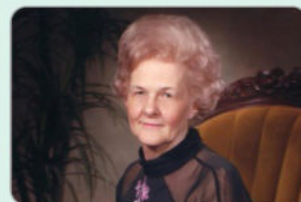
Preserve your family history

Many grandparents are the historians of their family. They have lived through different time periods, know the most about where your relatives came from, and knew your parents when they were young. One way to learn more about your family's past is to go through stored photos and keepsakes with your grandparents. Ask them to open up a couple of boxes and talk to you about the contents. Another option is to do a video interview with a grandparent about your family's history and share it with the rest of your relatives.



Spend time with each other.

The day's history



In 1963, Grandparents' Day was first made an official holiday in the Bronx, New York, after a local leader named Jacob Reingold pioneered efforts for a day to celebrate grandparents. In 1970, Marian McQuade (above), an elder rights activist, began to campaign for a special day of recognition for grandparents. Her advocacy led to Grandparents' Day in her state, West Virginia, in 1973.

A few years later, Congress (branch of government that makes laws) proclaimed the first Sunday after Labor Day to be National Grandparents' Day. On August 3, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a proclamation making the day official.



Why my grandparents are important to me

Grandparents' Day is coming up on September 8, 2024.

This is a day when people of different generations, like grandparents and their grandchildren, are encouraged to connect. We invite you to use this form to write down your thoughts about one or more of your grandparents—or any special older people in your life. You can also share this form with them. They may enjoy knowing what you have to say! We would also love to read what you write and see your artwork. To share your thoughts and drawing with us, ask an adult to email your form to hello@theweekjunior.com. Extra forms can be found at theweekjunior.com/activities.

First name _____ Age _____ State _____

In honor of Grandparents' Day, explain why your grandparents are important to you.

If you could describe your grandparents in three words, which words would you choose?

What is your favorite memory of being with your grandparents?

Draw a picture of you with your grandparents.

By submitting this form, you give *The Week Junior* consent to print it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Puzzles



Word search

Can you find all these words associated with deserts? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

ARID
BURRO
CACTUS
CAMEL
COYOTE
DRY
DUNE
DUST DEVIL
GECKO
GOBI
GRIT
GULLY
HEAT
LIZARD

MESA
MESQUITE
OASIS
PRICKLY PEAR
RATTLESNAKE
ROCKS
SAGUARO
SAHARA
SAND
SCORPION
SCRUB
TUMBLEWEED
VAST
YUCCA

G R
A S E M
U I E I
V S R K
R A T T L E
O S U L P C O Y O T E
T T R Y A R V I V W
L D G R I T E
K O L L E T E
C L I Z A R D
I A A C C U Y
R L M I N G H
P T G E C K O
G U L L Y



FOUR IN A ROW

Place four of the letters below to complete the first pair of words, in the same order in both words. Use the remaining four letters to complete the second pair of words, in the same order in both words.

C D E I L N R S

□ A □ □ L □

□ O □ F I □ □ N T

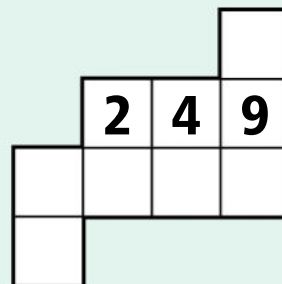
F □ O □ □ □ T

□ Y □ □ C □

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.



FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words that are the same except for a different first letter, like GEAR and PEAR. The two words will not always rhyme. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

- I reward my pooch with a doggie _____ whenever she does something especially _____.
- The reporter finished editing his story just before the midnight _____, but then he had to come up with an exciting _____ that would catch the reader's attention.
- When ancient pottery was discovered in the mud at the bottom of the _____, the museum sent a professional _____ down to see if she could find any more.

Spot the difference

These two pictures of puppies appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





Duuude!

Surf's up for these pups

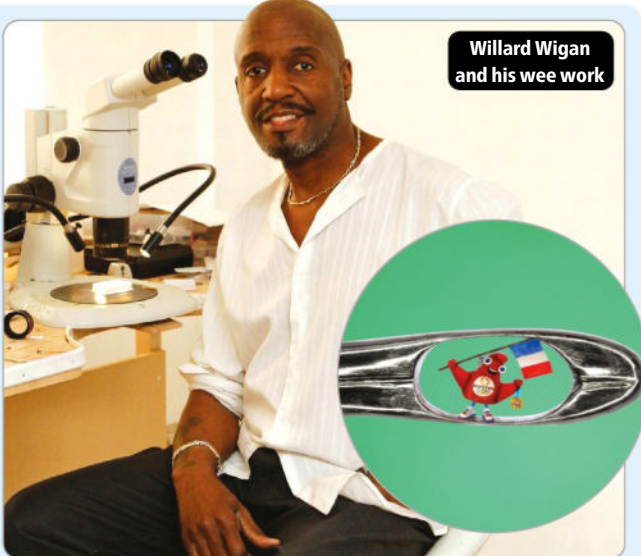
On August 3, thousands of spectators watched dogs "hang ten" at the World Dog Surfing Championships. Guided by their owners, four-legged surfers caught the waves at a beach in Pacifica, California. The contest raised money for animal charities, and a Labrador retriever named Cacau won prizes and the coveted title of "top surf dog." Kentucky Gallahue, owner of canine competitor Derby California, said, "Being able to spend time with your best friend, riding the waves and bringing smiles to people's faces, makes us happy."



"Hey, I'm quackin' here!"

Giant duck goes to New York

The world's largest rubber duck took to the state of New York like a duck to water. The 61-foot-tall inflatable, known as Mama Duck, is made of rubber and vinyl and has been traveling across the country on a mission to "spread happiness and love wherever she goes," according to a representative. This month, Mama Duck and her son, a 10-foot-tall duckling named Timmy, spent time at a water park in the town of Calverton before crossing the Long Island Sound to arrive at an amusement park in Rye. "The world is her bathtub," her creators said.



Willard Wigan and his wee work

Art in the eye of a needle

The "world's greatest micro sculptor" has created a tiny tribute to the Paris Olympics and Paralympics in the eye of a needle. Willard Wigan makes his masterpieces under a microscope, using a small needle and an eyelash as a paintbrush. He said that in order to create miniature works of art like his, "you have to be very still and hold your breath and work between heartbeats." Wigan's latest sculpture features the Paris 2024 mascot, decorated with a logo made from real gold and holding the French flag and a gold medal.

Real or fake?



Can it upgrade your bytes?

Robo-dentist performs procedure

Would you like a trip to the dentist better if your dentist was a robot? For the first time, a machine has performed a dental procedure on a human patient. Using artificial intelligence, which imitates human learning, the machine created a 3D scan of a patient's mouth. Its robotic arm then drilled into a tooth, preparing it for a dental crown. The procedure, which usually takes about two hours, was completed in 15 minutes. Is this story true, or do you think we brushed over the facts?*

*Really! The company that created the robot says it can also detect cavities with about 90% accuracy. (The accuracy rate for a human dentist with an X-ray machine is 40%.) There's still no word on whether it gives you a toothbrush on the way out, though.



Your turn

Editor's note

As the academic year gets underway, many US schools are enforcing bans on the use of cell phones during class—and in some cases throughout the school day (p4). Officials in states including Florida and Louisiana passed laws requiring the bans after research showed that the devices can interfere with learning and lead to bullying and other problems. What are your thoughts on this? Does your school have a phone policy? If not, do you think it should? As always, you can share your opinion with us at hello@theweekjunior.com. In other news, the Democratic National Convention had begun in Chicago, Illinois, as this issue of *The Week Junior* went to press (p5). Following the Republican convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, last month, this is an important time in US politics. To help you understand what's happening, we will have exciting coverage leading up to the November 5 election and beyond!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



Skyler, 11, California

Publishing a coloring book

“I recently published my fifth book, *Georgina*. It's a coloring book about friendship, changing seasons, and traveling the world. I wanted to create a coloring book because I think coloring is relaxing and fun. I've always loved autumn with its beautiful rust and orange leaves. I also

have great memories of giant bear mascots at football games and our family's tradition of saying thank you to nature every fall for making room for new growth. I hope my books bring joy and positive feelings to readers of all ages!”

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

What's the quickest way to catch a fish?
Have someone throw it to you!

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



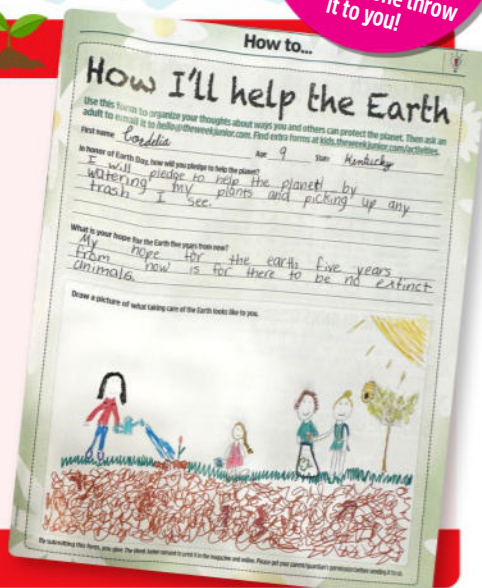
CompuDopt

This organization's goal is to make technology available to all students. First, it gives used computers a second life by updating them with new software. The group then distributes the refurbished computers to children who don't have access to one at home. The organization has provided more than 111,000 devices to students since it was founded in 2007. Find out more at compuDopt.org.



EARTH HELPERS

Cordelia, who is 9 years old and from Kentucky, told us she helps the Earth by watering her plants and picking up any trash she sees. Her hope for the world is that endangered animals don't become extinct. If you'd like to share your ideas for protecting the Earth, go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to print out a form, like the one at right. After you fill it out with your ideas and drawing, have an adult email it to us hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions we receive on this page in future issues.



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I read *The Week Junior* every day after school." **Marco, 9,**
New Jersey

"I made the no-churn peach cobbler ice cream from *The Week Junior* for my grandma's 77th birthday! Pro tip: Make a crumble topping." **Samaria, 10, Texas**



"I really enjoyed reading about sharks and how they became more dangerous predators." **Niam, 8, Virginia**



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Starowicz**

School: **Jamesville DeWitt Middle School**

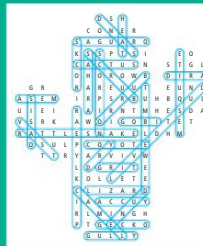
"I would like to nominate Mr. Starowicz for being an amazing teacher and making learning language arts so fun! He has the best book recommendations and always has a big smile. He helps us learn difficult subjects and even scheduled a visit from the Syracuse 8, a group of college athletes who protested racism. I am going to really miss him next year in seventh grade."

Frankie, 11, New York

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!

Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)



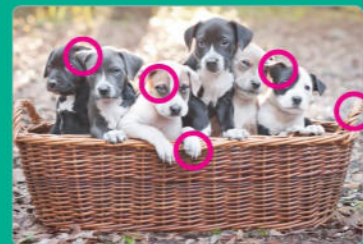
Word search

Unused letters: Scorpions glow greenish blue in the dark with ultraviolet light.

Four in a row
candle, confident
florist, lyrics

Fill in the blanks
1. treat, great
2. deadline, headline
3. river, diver

				7
	2	4	9	
5	8	6	1	
3				



Quiz answers (from page 30) 1 True 2 c) 549 3 Delegates 4 a) Drums 5 b) Ralph Kiner 6 c) Southern pudu 7 Neanderthals 8 False. She goes dressed up as a rock star. 9 Four 10 b) Undo Bugs 11 True 12 a) Carolina Ascent 13 False. It has created butter from carbon dioxide. 14 Ballet for All Kids 15 b) Surfing

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 True or false? The Phoenix Zoo recently held a summer snow day.

True ☐ False ☐

2 How many medal events will take place at the 2024 Paralympic Games?

a) 349 b) 449 c) 549

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 What are the officials who vote on political party nominees at national conventions called?

4 Nandi Bushell is known for playing what musical instrument?

a) Drums b) Guitar c) Piano

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 Aaron Judge broke which player's record for hitting 300 home runs in the fewest Major League Baseball games?

a) Alex Rodriguez b) Ralph Kiner

c) Ryan Howard

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 What species of deer was recently born at the Queens Zoo in New York City?

a) Blackbuck b) Pronghorn c) Southern pudu

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 What are the closest known human relatives of modern humans called?

8 True or false? In the book *The Everybody Experiment*, Kylie goes to a party dressed up as a mermaid.

True ☐ False ☐



9 How many deep-sea submersibles does the OceanXplorer vessel have?

10 In the video game *World of Goo 2*, what is the name of the insects that players can use to go back a step?

a) Fix-it Flies b) Undo Bugs

c) Reverse Wasps

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 True or false? A recent study found that dogs' moods change when they sense that humans are stressed.

True ☐ False ☐

12 Which team won the first-ever match in the United Soccer League Super League?

a) Carolina Ascent b) DC Power

c) Tampa Bay Sun

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? The company Savor has created a cheese made from carbon dioxide rather than milk.

True ☐ False ☐

14 What is the name of the dance program featured in the documentary *Everybody Dance?*

15 In what sport did dogs compete at a world championship event in Pacifica, California?

a) Swimming b) Surfing c) Skateboarding

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

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“
**It helps in school
by keeping me up to
date with news.**

”
— Elizabeth



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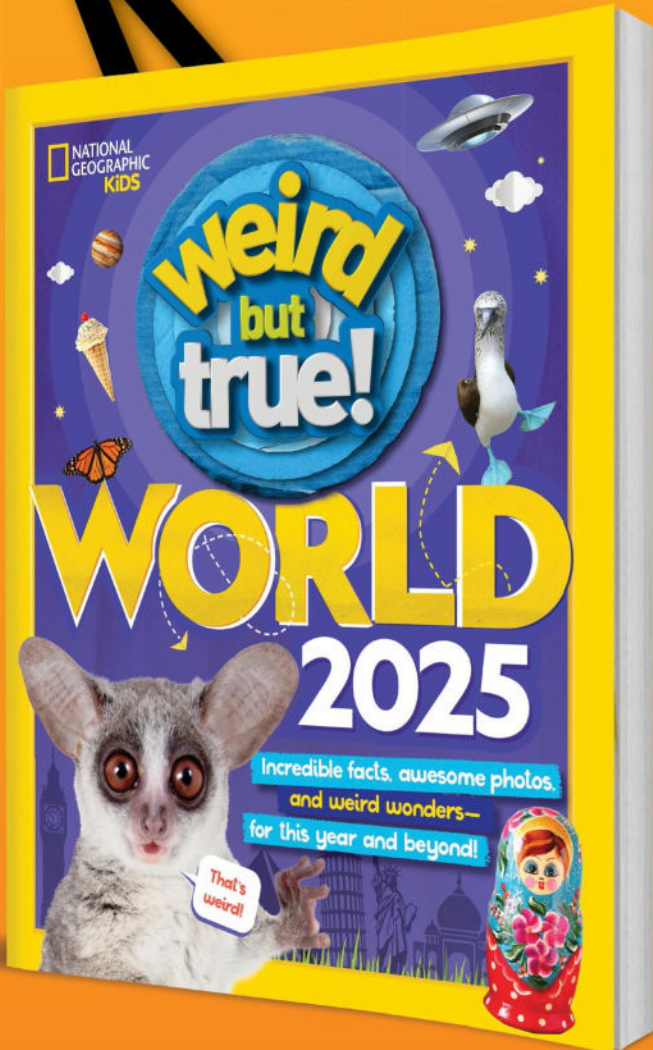
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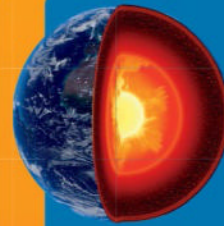
**Back-
to-school
savings**

Let's Take a **SPIN** Around the **GLOBE** with
WEIRD BUT TRUE
WORLD 2025



September 7 is
**National
 Pet Rock Day!**

You flush a
 toilet about
2,500 times
 a year.



The **IRON
 CORE OF
 EARTH**
 can reach
 temperatures
 as hot as the
 sun's surface.

It's always time
 for pizza at the
**Museum of
 Pizza Culture in
 Philadelphia, PA!**



Gerenuk means "**giraffe-necked**"
 in a language of Somalia where this
 cool critter lives!



Journey across all seven continents, deep into the ocean,
 and far out into space with this fun, fact-packed favorite!